the eligible rural poor by preparation of action plans, and to complete the task by undertaking special drives. They have also been requested for taking effective steps for detecting insecure or informal tenants, so as to bring them on record; implementation of the legislative provisions for preventing alienation of tribal lands and restoration of such alienated land; providing equal rights of ownership of assets like houses and land to women, and for taking up consolidation of holdings.

2. As per the information received from the States, 125.93 lakh tenants have been conferred ownership rights or their rights are protected, covering an area of 167.16 lakh acres. On implementation of the land ceiling laws, an area of 68.59 lakh acres has been declared surplus, of which 59.98 lakh acres has been taken possession of, and 49.68 lakh acres has been distributed to 55.34 lakh beneficiaries, of whom 39 per cent belong to Scheduled Castes and 15 per cent to Scheduled Tribes. In addition, 153.22 lakh acres of Govt. wasteland, and 16.66 lakh acres of Bhoodan land, have been distributed to the eligible rural poor. Further, an area of 1739.01 lakh acres has been consolidated. An area of 4.18 lakh acres of alienated tribal land has been restored to the tribals.

Approval of schemes from Maharashtra under SGSY

†3983. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has submitted some schemes to the Union Government under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) if so, the details of the schemes; and

(c) the details of the schemes out of those which the Government is considering to give its approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Since inception of the scheme, 55 proposals for Special Projects under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) have been received by the Ministry of Rural Development from the Government of Maharashtra. Out of 55 proposals, 14 projects have been sanctioned/approved so far, 29 project proposals have been returned to the concerned State Governments or other sponsoring agencies for various reasons and 12 project proposals are with the Government at various stages of processing including proposals cleared by Project Screening Committee for consideration of the Project Approval Committee etc.

A large number of special project proposals under SGSY are received from State Governments and other Agencies for sanction. Since they are large livelihoods projects whose cost can go up to a maximum of Rs. 15 crore, such proposals are first scrutinized for their compliance with the guidelines of Special Projects under SGSY. Projects that do not fulfil these requirements are returned to the concerned State Governments. The State Governments keep on revising, restructuring and resubmitting such proposals. The project

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

proposals which comply with the basic parameters of the guidelines and are in line with the present priorities are then appraised through two inter-Ministerial Committee for screening and approval. These Committees are Project Screening Committee (PSC) and Project Approval Committee. Receipt of project proposals, their revision by the sponsoring State Governments and their approval through the above two tier Inter Ministerial Committees is a continuous process. Since appraisal and approval/clearance of proposals depend on various factors like their fulfilling the prescribed guidelines, economic viability of the proposals, BPL focus of projects, etc., no details of projects likely to be approved by the Ministry can be indicated.

Distribution of waste land to Scheduled Castes

3984. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of waste land has been distributed to Scheduled Castes in different States during the last five years;

(b) the steps taken by Government for utilization of the land;

(c) the number of landless families from SC community identified in different States;

(d) what is the mandate of Government to give land to landless families;

(e) what are the ongoing programmes being implemented in different States; and

(f) how these programmes are being monitored at different levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (f) Land and its management falls within the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments as provided under Entry No. 18 of State List (List II) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The role of the Central Government in this field is only of an advisory and coordinating nature. Implementation of land reforms programmes including distribution of Govt. wasteland is, however, reviewed from time to time at various fora, including Conferences of the Revenue Ministers/Secretaries of States and UTs organized by the Ministry of Rural Development.

2. It is accepted policy that wasteland at the disposal of Government should be distributed among the eligible rural poor. The State Governments have been requested from time to time for distribution of govt. wastelands to eligible rural poor. They have also been requested for development of wastelands under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme and the watershed management programmes, to distribute such lands to the landles families, and to take up Jatropha cultivation on wastelands.

3. As per information received from the States/UTs, 153.22 lakh acres of govt. wasteland has been distributed to eligible rural poor including Scheduled Castes. The State-wise details of distribution of govt. wasteland are given in the enclosed Statement.